



**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
(NRCS)**

OH-ENG-235a
(revised 12/00)

**COMPOSTING DESIGN WORKSHEET
FOR BINS**

Landowner:		County:	
Designer:	Date:	Checked:	Date:

1. Calculate primary & secondary composting cycle times as a function of the design weight (see tables 1-3):

Primary cycle time (T_1) = $5.0 \times \sqrt{\frac{\text{Design Weight (W}_1\text{, largest animal anticipated)}}{\text{(10 day min)}}}$ = _____ days

Secondary cycle time (T_2) = $1/3 \times \frac{\text{Primary cycle time}}{\text{(10 day min)}}$ = _____ days

2. Calculate Primary, Secondary & Storage Volumes (or use Tables 1 through 3):

Primary Volume = $0.2 \times \frac{\text{lb loss / day (ADL)}}{\text{Primary Cycle Time (T}_1\text{)}}$ = _____ cu ft

Secondary Volume = $0.2 \times \frac{\text{lb loss / day(ADL)}}{\text{Secondary Cycle Time (T}_2\text{)}}$ = _____ cu ft

Storage Volume = $0.2 \times \frac{\text{lb loss / day (ADL)}}{\text{30 days (T}_3\text{)}}$ = _____ cu ft

Alternate: (use with large animals), W_1 = weight of largest animal

Primary Volume = $0.2 \times W_1 \text{ (lb)} \times \text{Integer (ADL} \times T_1 / W_1)$ = _____ cu ft

Secondary Volume = $0.2 \times W_1 \text{ (lb)} \times \text{Integer (ADL} \times T_2 / W_1)$ = _____ cu ft

Storage Volume = $0.2 \times W_1 \text{ (lb)} \times \text{Integer (ADL} \times T_3 / W_1)$ = _____ cu ft

3. Calculate number of bins with a minimum of two primary, one secondary, and one storage bin required. *In doing calculations always round to the nearest whole number.*

Bin Volumes versus width and length. Depth of compost = 5 ft.

Width / Length	4	6	8	10	12	14	16
	Bin Vol. (ft ³)						
4	80	120	160				
6	120	180	240	300	360		
8	160	240	320	400	480	560	640
10		300	400	500	600	700	800
12		360	480	600	720	840	960
14		420	560	700	840	980	1120
16		480	640	800	960	1120	1280

Number of Primary Bins - Choose bin dimensions within the capability of the loading equipment. Also account for the size of the animals to maintain 6" to 12" clearance between the carcasses and the bin walls (Minimum vol.). The bin width should be at least 2 ft greater than the loader bucket width. The equation for calculating the number of primary bins includes one additional bin to allow placing additional carcasses during the primary curing stage. *A minimum of two primary bins is required.*

$$\text{Trial Bin Volume} = \frac{\text{Width (ft)}}{\text{Width (ft)}} \times \frac{\text{length (ft)}}{\text{length (ft)}} \times 5 \text{ ft} = \text{cu ft}$$

$$\text{Number of Primary Bins} = \frac{\text{Primary Volume (step 2)}}{\text{Primary Volume (step 2)}} / \frac{\text{Trial Bin Volume}}{\text{Trial Bin Volume}} + 1 \text{ Bin} = \text{Bins}$$

Number of Secondary Bins - Select secondary bin volume. *Each secondary bin must be \geq to the volume of the primary bin since volume reduction during the compost cycle is neglected.* Minimum of 1 secondary bin per 3 primary bins (The 3:1 ratio requires immediate utilization or separate storage of compost following the secondary cycle.)

$$\text{Number of Secondary Bins} = \text{Secondary volume (step 2)} / \text{selected secondary bin volume}$$

$$\text{Number of Secondary Bins} = \frac{\text{Secondary Volume. (step 2)}}{\text{Secondary Volume. (step 2)}} / \frac{\text{Secondary Bin Volume}}{\text{Secondary Bin Volume}} = \text{Bins}$$

Number of Storage Bins - Select storage bin size. *Volume of each storage bin must be \geq to secondary bin volume.*

$$\text{Number of Bins for Compost Storage} = \text{Storage volume (step 2)} / \text{selected storage bin volume}$$

$$\text{Number of Storage Bins} = \frac{\text{Storage Volume (step 2)}}{\text{Storage Volume (step 2)}} / \frac{\text{Storage Bin Volume}}{\text{Storage Bin Volume}} = \text{Bins}$$

3. Calculate annual sawdust requirements. (This assumes no reintroduction of finished compost to the primary bin, however it is recommended that up to 50% of fresh sawdust requirements be met with finished compost.)

$$\text{Cubic Yards Sawdust} = \frac{\text{lb loss / yr.}}{\text{lb loss / yr.}} \times 0.0069 = \text{cu. yd. / yr.}$$

Number of additional bin(s) desired by operator for fresh sawdust storage = _____

Summarize Bin Sizes and numbers:

	Primary	Secondary	Compost Storage	Sawdust Storage
Number of Bins				
Size (w x l)				